

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 245871

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP

SUBJECT: PROPOSED EXCHANGE VISIT OF US GOVERNORS

REF: STATE 236811, MOSCOW 16649

1. A BIPARTISAN DELEGATION OF EIGHT GOVERNORS VISITED THE USSR OCTOBER 8-19, 1971. DURING THEIR STAY IN MOSCOW THEY VISITED THE KREMLIN AND ARMOURY, THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF RSFSR, MOSCOW UNIVERSITY, THE SUBWAY SYSTEM, OSTANKINO TELEVISION TOWER, AN URBAN PLANNING EXHIBITION, AND THE MOSCOW CITY ADMINISTRATION. IN KIEV THEY VISITED THE PRESIDIUM OF SUPREME SOVIET OF THE UKRAINE, A HIGH SCHOOL, AN EXHIBITION OF ECONOMIC ACHIEVEMENT, AND TOURED THE CITY. THEIR STOP IN TBLISI AFFORDED AN OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT AN AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTE, THE CITY ADMINISTRATION, ATTEND THE THEATER AND TO VISIT AND HAVE DINNER WITH THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF GEORGIA AND THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF UKRAINE. IN LENINGRAD THE VISIT INCLUDED STOPS AT THE CHILDREN'S VILLAGE, THE THEATER, THE HERMITAGE MUSEUM, THE LENINGRAD CITY ADMINISTRATION, A TOUR OF THE CITY, AND LUNCH HOSTED BY LENINGRAD CITY ADMINISTRATION. THE GOVERNORS APPRECIATED THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH PRIME MINISTER KOSYGIN AND OTHER LEADING OFFICIALS.

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PAGE 02 STATE 245871

2. THE GOVERNORS WERE ACCOMPANIED BY A SENIOR OFFICER FROM THE DEPARTMENT, A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE NATIONAL GOVERNORS' CONFERENCE AND 10 JOURNALISTS. ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNORS CONSIDERED THE VISIT SUCCESSFUL, THEY RECOMMENDED THAT PLANNING FOR FUTURE EXCHANGE VISITS SHOULD BEGIN WELL IN ADVANCE AND THAT THE GOVERNORS BE GIVEN SUFFICIENT OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE SUGGESTIONS REFLECTING THEIR INTERESTS IN TERMS OF GEOGRAPHY AND SUBJECT MATTER.

3. THE DEPARTMENT WOULD THEREFORE APPRECIATE TENTATIVE PROGRAM AND ITINERARY SUGGESTIONS BY NOVEMBER 12 TO PERMIT DISCUSSION WITH NATIONAL GOVERNORS' CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON NOVEMBER 14. IT WOULD BE MADE CLEAR THAT ALL DISCUSSIONS ARE HYPOTHETICAL UNTIL PROGRAM DISCUSSED WITH SOVIET GOVERNMENT. INGERSOLL

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